1916



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talk of horses while we've got women

away to assist in transferring his pas-

He cursed aloud and made his way

down the sloping deck to the square

iron door or port through which he

had loaded them. But he found that it

was jammed, or held fast by the pres-

sure outside, and after a few moments'

work in water above his knees he

climbed to the starboard side. Here

the entrance was obstructed by a huge

pile of baled hav and grain in sacks.

It would be no easy task to clear it

away, and he fell to work with des-

perate energy, for the ship was slowly

changing her level. He was perspir-

ing furiously; the commotion around

him was horrible. Then abruptly the

lights went out, leaving him in utter

blackness; the last fading yellow gleam

was photographed briefly upon his

After scrambling to the cabin deck

O'Neil felt for the little bracket lamp

on the wall of his stateroom and lit it.

He dragged a life preserver from the

rack overhead and slipped the tapes

about his shoulders, reflecting that

Then he opened his traveling bags and

dumped their contents upon the white

counterpane of his berth, selecting out

of the confusion certain documents and

trinkets. The latter he thrust into his

pockets as he found them, the former

he wrapped in handkerchiefs before

All at once he whirled and faced the

door with an exclamation of astonish-

There, clinging to the casing, stood a

voman-a girl-evidently drawn out

of the darkness by the light which

streamed down across the sloping deck

from his stateroom. Plainly she had

but just awakened, for she was clothed in a silken nightrobe which failed to

conceal the outlines of her body. She

were thrust into soft, heelless slippers,

that her hair, black in this light, cas-

caded down to her waist, and that her

large, were fixed upon him with a

"It is so dark—so strange—so still!" she murmured. "What has happened?"

"God! Didn't they awaken you?" he

"Is the ship-sinking?" Her odd be-

He nodded. "We struck a rock. The

passengers have been taken off. We're

the only ones left. In heaven's name,

He shook his head in astonishment.

yet, I see. You shouldn't have taken

young people. Now, at my age there

them, but you"- He was talking to

cover the panic of his thoughts, for his

own predicament had been serious

enough, and her presence rendered it

doubly embarrassing. What in the

world to do with her he scarcely knew.

His lips were smiling, but his eyes

were grave as they roved over the cab-

in and out into the blackness of the

"Are we going to drown?" she asked

"Nonsense!" He laughed in appar-

"I'm wretchedly afraid," she whise

"None of that!" he said brusquely.

'I'll see that nothing happens to you."

He slipped out of his life preserver

and adjusted it over her shoulders,

first drawing her arms through the

sleeves of her dressing gown and knot-

ting the cord snugly around her waist.

"Just as a matter of precaution," he

assured her. "We may get wet. Can

"Never mind; I can." He found an-

other life belt, fitted it to his own form

and led her out upon the deck. The

scuppers were awash now, and she

gasped as the sea licked her bare feet.

Slipping his arm about her, he bore

her to the door of the main cabin and

entered. She had clasped his neck so

tightly that he could scarcely breathe;

O'Nell judged that the ship was at

ent amusement, showing his large,

night be some excuse for resorting to

stare like that of a sleepwalker.

cried in sharp surprise.

where have you been?"

"I was asleep."

night.

dully.

strong teeth.

you swim?"

pered through white lips.

She shook her head.

ment, for a voice had addressed him.

stowing them away.

Alaskan waters are disagreeably cold.

(Continued.)

"Everybody out! The ship is sinkig!" As he turned away Murray seized him roughly by the arm and, thrust-ing his face close to the other's, said

"If you yell again like that I'll toss you overboard." "God help us, we're going"-

O'Neil shook the fellow until his teeth rattled; his own countenance, or dinarily so quiet, was blazing. "There's no danger. Act like a man

and don't start a stampede." The steward pulled himself together and answered in a calmer tone: "Very well, sir. I-I'm sorry, sir."

Murray O'Neil was known to most of the passengers, for his name had ie up and down the coast, and there were few places from San Francisco to ome where his word did not carry eight. As he went among his fellow ravelers now, smiling, self contained, unruffied, his presence had its effect. Women ceased their shrilling, men opped their senseless questions and istened to his directions with some comprehénsion. In a short time the passengers were marshaled upon the upper deck where the lifeboats hung etween the davits. Each little craft was in charge of its allotted crew, the electric lights continued to burn brightly, and the panic gradually wore itself out. Meanwhile the ship was running a desperate race with the sea, striving with every ounce of steam in her boilers to find a safe berth for her mutilated body before the inrush of waters drowned her fires. That the race was close even the dullest understood, for the Nebraska was settling forward and plowed into the night head down, like thing maddened with pain. She was becoming unmanageable, too, and O'Nell thought with pity of that little ironhearted skipper on the bridge who

was fighting her so furiously. There was little confusion, little talking; upon the upper deck now. Only a child whimpered or a woman sobbed hysterically. But down forward among the steerage passengers the case was



O'Neil Shook the Fellow Until His Teeth Rattled.

different. These were mainly Montenegrins, Polacks or Slavs bound for the construction camps to the westward, and they surged from side to side like cattle, requiring Tomlinson's best efforts to keep them from rushing

In these circumstances the wait became almost unbearable. The race seemed hours long, the miles stretched into leagues, and with every moment of suspense the ship sank lower. The end came unexpectedly. There was a sudden startled outcry as the Nebraska truck for a second time that night. She rose slightly, rolled and bumped, grated briefly, then came to rest. Captain Brennan shouted from the

"Fill your lifeboats, Mr. James, and lower away carefully." A cheer rose from the huddled pas-

The boiler room was still dry, it exemed, for the incondescent lights burned without a flicker, even after the grimy oilers and stokers had come pouring up on dock.

CHAPTER II. A Girl Out of the Night. 'NEH, climbed to the bridge. "Is this Hallbut bay?" he asked

Captain Johnny. "It is. But we're piled up on but, lowering her until her feet were the reef outside. She may held fast. I on the dry carpet, he gently loosed her

ope so, for there's deep water astern, and if she slips off she's go down." "I'd like to save my horses," said the bounger man wistfully. Through all the strain of the past half hour or more his uppermost thought had been for them. But Brennan had no sympathy for such sentiments. "Hell's belis!" he exclaimed. "Don't

"Now, my dear child," he told her,

least a quarter of a mile from the | beach, and his heart sank, for he doubted that either he or his companion could last long in these waters. It occurred to him that Brennan might be close by, waiting for the Nebraska to sink-it would be unlike the little captain to forsake his trust until the last possible moment-but he reasoned that the cargo of lives in the skipper's boat would induce him to stand well off to avoid accident. He called lustfly time after time, but no answer came. Meanwhile the girl stood quietly be-

side him. There followed a wait which seemed long, but was in reality of but a few minutes, for the ship was sliding back-



"Take the girl-quick," he implored. ward faster and faster. At last they heard a shuddering sigh as she parted from the rocks and the air rushed up through the deck openings with greater force. The Nebraska swung she rishly with the tide; then, when her upper structure had settled flush with the

sea, Murray O'Neil took the woman in his arms and leaped clear of the rail. The first gasping moment of immersion was fairly paralyzing; after that the reaction came, and the two began to struggle away from the sinking ship. But the effect of the reaction soon wore off. The water was cruelly cold and their bodies ached in every nerve and fiber. O'Neil did his best to encourage his companion. | He talked to her through his chattering teeth, and once she had recovered from the mental shock of the first fearful plunge she responded pluckfly. He knew that his own heart was normal and strong, but he feared that the girl's might not be

equal to the strain. At length there came through the man's dazed sensibilities a sound different from those he had been hearing. It was a human voice, mingled with the measured thud of oars in their had flung a quilted dressing gown of sockets. It roused him like an electric some sort over her shoulders and with one bare arm and hand strove to hold out hoarsely. Some one answered him. ice. He saw that her pink feet Then, out of the darkness to seaward emerged a deeper blot, which loomed up hugely, yet proved to be no more than a lifeboat banked full of people. eyes, which were very dark and very It came to a stop within an oar's length of him. From the babble of voices he distinguished one that was familiar and cried the name of Johnny Brennan. His brain had cleared now, a great dreamlike sense of thanksgiving warmed him, and he felt equal to any effort. He was vaguely amazed to wilderment of voice and gaze puzzled find that his limbs refused to obey

His own name was being pronounced in shocked tones. The splash from an oar filled his face and strangled him, but he managed to lay hold of the blade and was drawn in until outstretched hands seized him.

"How you falled to hear that hub-An oarsman was saving: "Be careful there! 'We can't take him in without "I heard something, but I was ill.

swamping." My head-I took something to ease the But Brennan's voice shouted, "Make coom or I'll bash in your bloody skull." "Ah! Medicine! It hasn't worn off Another protest arose, and O'Nell saw that the craft was indeed loaded it. Drugs are nothing but poison to

to the gunwales. "Take the girl-quick!" he implored 'I'll hang on. You can-tow me. The limp form was removed from his

side and dragged over the thwarts while a murmur of excited voices went up. "Can you hold out for a minute,

Murray?" asked Brennan. "Yes-I think so." "I'd give you my place, but you're

too big to be taken in without dan-"Go ahead," chattered the man in

the water. "Look after the girl before it's-too late."

The captain's stout hand was in his collar now, and he heard him crying: "Pull, you muscle bound heathens! Everybody sit still! Now away with ber, men. Keep up your heart, Murray, my boy. Remember it takes more than water to kill a good Irishman. It's only a foot or two farther, and they've started a fire. Serves you right, you big idiot, for going overboard with all those boats. Man dear, but you're pulling the arm out of me. It's stretched out like a garden hose. Hey! Cover up that girl, and you, lady, rub her feet and hands. Good! Move

over please so the men can ball." The next O'Neil knew he was feeling very miserable and very cold notwithstanding the fact that he was wrapped in dry clothing and lay so close to a roaring sprace fire that its heat blis-

Brennan was bending over him with eyes wet. He was swearing, too, in a weak, faltering way, calling upon all the saints to witness that the prostrate The UNIVERSITY SCHOOL ment to man was the embodiment of every viryou must do exactly as I tell you. tue and that his death would be a Come! Calm yourself or I won't take | national calamity. Others were gathyou any farther." He held her off by her shoulders. "I may have to swim with you; you mustn't cling to me so!" board.

(To Be Continued.)

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PROBATE COURT.

March 29, 1916.

Estate of James T. Brady, late of he town of Bridgeport in said district deceased.

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JOHN F. BRADY, No. 8 North Washington Ave.

STATE OF CONNECTICUT, DISTRICT OF BRIDGEPORT, SS.,

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JOHN F. BRADY, Executor. No. 8 North Washington Ave. U 3 s

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